

IRISH WOLFHOUND ASSOCIATION OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY

9th & 10th October 2016

It was a great privilege and honour to be invited to judge at this lovely show, so beautifully run in lovely surroundings and with such a friendly team of organisers and exhibitors. I made some general notes along the way which I would like to cover before my critiques.

My overall impression of the entry was of hounds well presented and in good muscular condition. There was a terrific empathy between hounds and handlers which wonderful to see. In general coat texture was good although a few had rather longer, flatter coats. Quite a few were generous in loin length and a few heads a little broader than the standard calls for. Profile movement was generally impressive, as ever some hounds were less tidy on the up and back with paddling, winging and crabbing in evidence. Temperaments were flawless across the board

Thank you for having accepted my decisions with good grace and humour; the amount of support between exhibitors was something which greatly impressed.

DOGS

PUPPY 6-9 MONTHS (3 entered)

1st Killcullen-Steiner's CILL CHUILLINN'S RUAILLE BUAILLE
Lovely youngster, stands well with a nicely set front. Pleasing head and good ear. Well boned throughout with a nice long neck and long body into well set croup. Plenty of length of thigh and second thigh and plenty of width through the hock. Moved steadily, just a touch narrow throughout at present, should broaden with maturity.

2nd Berkovitz & Killcullen-Steiner's MURDOCH OF CILL CHUILLINN
From a similar mould to first place. Good head although ears could be a little tighter. Has nicely set angles and a good length of body. Would benefit from a touch more width through the stifle.

3rd Nienstedt & Smith's TALIESIN'S DAVAN OF FINDAWAY
Very raw youngster at his first show. Long limbed with good depth of chest. Attractive head and nice long upper arm. Needs a bit more width through the rearquarters. Was tidy on the move.

PUPPY 9 – 12 MONTHS (1)

1st High & Muffley's COLERAINE'S CATHBHADH INCUBATOR JONES
Well furnished head, ears well held. Long neck into well set front with long upper arm. Well boned throughout. Topline needs to settle a little, nice deep brisket. Long thigh and second thigh, nicely sloping croup and well set tail. Would like a bit more width between the hocks on the move. Presented in good coat and condition.

PUPPY 12 – 18 months (4, 1 absent)

1st Dentino & Chastain's PADRAIC MICHAEL JAMES

Very leggy lad. Has a super head and expression and long bones everywhere. Could be a touch tighter in pastern. Good length of body and ribbed well back. Super length through the rearquarters. In excellent condition and very light and easy mover.

2nd Patterson & Ross's CNOCCARNE OLOG CARROWMORAGH

Lovely boy, doing his best to be unco-operative on the day. Presents a super outline, beautifully balanced. Very appealing head and soft expression, long limbed and with good bone. Carries his ribbing well back into a firm loin. Excelled on the move with a ground covering, true stride. In grand condition. Should do well.

3rd Gagne & Ivanovskis' STARKEEPER HADYN HIGHEST HONOR

Big boy at just 14 months. Well planed head, kind expression. Has a nice long neck into well set shoulder. Little too straight in upper arm which brings his front a touch too far forward. Strong in top and underline and plenty of width through the rear. Moved out steadily, just not quite the range of movement of the first two placed.

NOVICE (4, 1)

1st Cottrell's TALIESIN'S RORY OF ABHAINN

Very appealing for type, super outline. Has a pleasing head, eye could be a touch darker. Lovely rosed ears. Excellent bone with good forechest and nicely set front. Firm topline and underline and plenty of width throughout. Moved steadily, a touch fond of his tail today.

2nd Emerson St. Clair's TEMPLAR OF WARWICK

Light grey brindle with sweet head and kind expression, lovely dark eye. Good width across the back and croup. Deep chested and well ribbed. Rather lacking in rear angles which affected movement and was carrying his tail too high today.

3rd Wandruff & Riggs' RYSHERON'S TRISTAN

Such a sweet natured lad with an appealing, well furnished head. Has a lovely long upper arm and good length and depth of body, super width across the rearquarters. His pasterns will need careful maintenance.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR (6, 1)

1st Smith's TALIESIN'S RHIONGANEDD

This super dog headed a really strong class of quality males. Powerful, well balanced and exuding presence. Grand head, well held ears. Has a good lay of shoulder and set of upper arm. Deep chested with nicely filled forechest. Stands on good bone and neat feet. Ribs well sprung and carried well back giving strong top and underlines. Plenty of width throughout. Strong, well angled rearquarters. A package that enabled him to move out effortlessly and true in all directions. Presented in superb condition. **WINNERS DOG, BEST OF WINNERS AND BEST BRED BY EXHIBITOR**

2nd Dormady's O'LUGH'S SINGLE MALT SCOTCH

Appealed for type and size. Terrific head and beautiful ears. Super front assembly, long boned. Has great depth of brisket and long ribbing, just not quite the forechest of the winner. Powerful rear with good width across the stifle and neat low hocks. Very easy and active on the move.

3rd Marx, Benjamin & Myer's KELLYKERRY BARBANCOURT OF AERIE

Another lovely dog. Not so scopey as those before him but nicely put together and balanced. Has a good front, flowing top and underlines and sufficient rear angulation. Moved tidily, just lacking a touch of extension.

4th LeVan's LISMORE PUCK

Tall wheaten, beautiful head, nice long muzzle. Super long neck into a very well assembled forehead. Long, straight limbs and good depth and length of body. A touch lighter in bone and lacking in coat today.

AMERICAN-BRED DOGS (10, 1)

1st Simon's ROCKHART WINDIGO

Really nice outline and every time I looked across at this dog he was standing perfectly true, seemingly with little effort from his handler. Masculine head, no frills, tight ears. A touch wide in front. Super strong neck and lovely flowing lines. Powerful in body, with well sprung ribs and long ribbing into a strong loin, gently sloping croup and well set tail. Strong, wide hocks which enabled him to move out purposefully. **RESERVE WINNERS DOG**

2nd Lee, Myer & Benjamin's KELLYKERRY KEIRAN OF AERIE

Really pleasing for type, size and substance. Lovely long head and neck, strongly bodied with plenty of width across the pelvis. Nice long bones and straight limbed. Had an occasional tendency to a slight wobble on his pasterns which cost him the class today.

3rd Patterson & Berry's BERRYBRIAR CARAGLEN IEISE AR CARROWMORAGH

Really nice lad who flowed under the hands. Nice forehead assembly, strong bone and neat feet. Well angled rearquarters and so easy on the move. Was just tending to roach his topline on occasion today.

4th LeVan's LISMORE LONE RANGER

Has a very pleasing well planed head, tight ears. Long bodied, well supported by ribbing carried well back. Not overdone in the rear and was very light and easy on his feet.

OPEN (7, 3)

1st Silverthorne & Gagne's STARKEEPER SILVERTHORNE NETTLE

Lovely head, dark eye, nicely rosed ears. Has a good depth of chest and well off for bone. Well assembled front which just set him above the second placed dog. Well ribbed and plenty of width through the croup. Sufficient width through the stifle and he was steady on the move.

2nd Martino, Brown, Marx & Benjamin's HOUND HILL VALKYRIE OF AERIE
Lovely wheaten, very well presented. Good head properties, dark eye. Strong neck into excellent shoulder. Has a shorter upper arm which tends to bring his front forward. Excellent depth of body, well sprung ribs, firm loin. Nice width through the hock. Moved out actively just lacking a bit of forward reach.

3rd Buckner's STARKEEPER'S DAVINCI CGC.
Nice dog, not overdone in any way and nicely balanced. Liked his head and expression, although his ears could be a little tighter. Very light and easy mover and tidy in all directions.

4th Harkins & Coen's EIRIAN'S DUBHLINN O'HEARCAIN
Lovely well furnished head, good length of neck and nicely constructed forequarters. Flowing top and underlines into an unexaggerated rear. Nice harsh coat. Movement was steady, could be a little tidier.

BITCHES

PUPPY 6 – 9 MONTHS (11, 1)

1st Kilcullen-Steiner's CILL CHUILLINN'S THEODOSIA
Headed up a very good class of promising youngsters. Has a super head, plenty of furnishings, lovely rosed ears and nice dark eye. Very well balanced overall. Good lay of shoulder and return of upper arm with nice length of body and good loin. Well constructed rear with long second thigh. Easy, rangy mover for one so young.

2nd Smith's TALIESIN'S DRUID DUINN EOSTAR
Possesses lovely breed type and has the most exquisite head and soft expression. Nicely put together throughout, tight elbows and neat feet. A tad long in hock but tidy and flowing on the move.

3rd Kilcullen-Steiner's CILL CHUILLINN'S PHILOMENA
Pretty wheaten with an attractive head, ears a little large but well held. Has a lovely return of upper arm and nice long limbs. Presented a nice outline, would just like a gentler fall away over the croup. Decided she'd done enough by the last go round today.

4th Marx & Benjamin's GILDA OF AERIE
Really appealed for type with beautiful head and expression and nice tight ears. Grand long neck into nicely angulated forequarters. Good length and depth of body into well set rear with plenty of width across the pelvis. Moved out in style but every now and again just seemed to come down a touch heavy on her left front.

PUPPY 9-12 MONTHS (4)

1st Gagne & Ivanovskis' STARKEEPER GRANUAILLE'S GALLEON
Headed another quality class. Slightly old fashioned head with a good long muzzle and serene expression which really appealed. Nice dark eye, ears could be held a little tighter. Nicely proportioned overall with well constructed quarters and a lovely firm topline. In good coat and condition and moved well with an easy, tidy stride. **BEST PUPPY**

2nd Lee's TIRNANOG BLAZE OF GLORY

Close up to the winner. Well furnished head, tidy ears. Good infill of forechest and lovely flowing topline. Plenty of length of bone throughout and moved out on a good stride.

3rd Jenuska's GLENAMADDA MAGICK MARIGOLD

Really sweet girl, pretty expression. Ears a little too large. Nicely ribbed back into good wide croup with well angulated hindquarters which she drove well off.

4th Shaw & Kennedy's GRIANAN'S GIFT OF CASTLEMAINE

This girl certainly typifies the 'Greyhound like' part of the standard. Very close coated, which hides absolutely nothing. Very tall, super fit muscle tone. Great spring of rib and plenty of width through the hock. Head could be a little more refined and I would prefer tighter front feet and shorter nails. Could really stride out.

PUPPY 12 – 18 MONTHS (9, 4)

1ST Craley & Simon's STONEYBROOK CASTLEKEEPER SWEET SPIRIT

Quality bitch. Pleasing head, although eye could be a touch darker. Plenty of substance throughout. Very strong muscular neck into good shoulder and lovely long, well set upper arm. Well bodied into powerful rear which she used to great effect on the move. Very true on the up and back with no deviation in line.

2nd Callender & Gagne's STARKEEPER CALORIEN A DIAMOND

Nice wheaten with an attractive head with good long muzzle. Ears a little large and rather flat. A touch more compact in body but well angulated throughout and plenty of substance. Moving just a touch close behind.

3rd Dentino's PADRAIC ELEARA MORGAINE

Rangy youngster with well planed head, ears rather too large and flat. Has a well set forehead and nice straight limbs. No exaggerations anywhere and moved out steadily.

4th Roland's DUN MYRICA R NOBLE NUALA OF EAGLE

Another rangy youngster. Head a little more refined, terrific rosed ears. Presents a balanced outline but a touch wide in front. In good coat and steady mover.

NOVICE (4)

1st Gagne & Ivanovskis' STARKEEPER NUALA O'ARD RHI

Liked her well proportioned head with good length of muzzle and kind expression. Holds her ears well back. Lovely strong neck into good lay of shoulder and firm topline which leads into nicely angulated rear and good low hocks. A touch steep over the croup. Has good length throughout and on the move had an easy action and ground covering stride.

2nd Pitt's CALYDDON RHIANNON

Put forward in good coat and condition. Liked her length of head and well held ears. Ribs nicely sprung and carried well back. Touch wide in front but presented a nice profile on the move. Needs to tidy a little on the up and back.

3rd Hoffman & Conner's REDTOPS ATHENA AT BLAIR
From a smaller mould but nicely put together. Good head, a touch light in eye and excellent ear carriage. Well presented and a positive, steady mover.

4th Marsman & LeVan's LISMORE JUNE CLEAVER
Wheaten girl giving her handler a bit of a hard time. Has a well constructed forehead, nice straight limbs. Good width over the croup and harsh coat. Moved out purposefully when she decided to get it together.

BRED BY EXHIBITOR (9, 2, 1 moved up)

1st Smith's TALIESIN'S RUADHOIGH
Wasn't sure she'd be my winner on first glance but she was by far the best mover in the class. Wheaten girl from a smaller mould. Pleasing head, terrific well held ears. Has a nicely set front with good length of ribbing and loin into nicely angulated hindquarters. Strong in body with good spring of rib. Tends to a rather higher head carriage and can pull back into her shoulder but was powerful and precise on the move.

2nd Myer's KELLYKERRY KINDLE OF EAGLE
Really lovely girl. Super head and expression and nicely held ears. Has flowing lines everywhere and great bone. Strongly bodied with plenty of width through. Was true and easy on the move but just started to lose a little enthusiasm towards the end.

3rd Marx, Benjamin & Myer's KELLYKERRY ECHO OF AERIE
Another lovely girl from this kennel and out of a similar mould to the second placed. Well furnished head with good planes. Neat ears. Has a nicely set front, although a shorter upper arm which slightly hampered her forward reach on the move.

4th LeVan's LISMORE LOVEY WENTWORTH HOWELL
Totally unexaggerated girl but nicely balanced overall. Head a little spoiled by large, flat ears. Super front construction with long, well set upper arm. Moved out enthusiastically, covering plenty of ground.

AMERICAN BRED (7, 2)

1st Smith's TALIESIN'S REALTA SCUAIBE
Another girl who tends to a higher head carriage, but she does have an exquisite head and soft expression and super well rosed ears. Nicely flowing lines throughout with good topline and nicely tucked up underline. Strong, straight legs and in good harsh coat. Long in second thigh and plenty of width through the hock which helped her drive out on the move where she was energetic and precise.

2nd LeVan's LISMORE GRACIE ALLEN
Liked this girl a lot. Lovely and feminine throughout. Nicely proportioned and in harsh coat. A touch wide in front and would like tighter elbows. Used herself well on the move, covering plenty of ground.

3rd Carey, Carey & Johnson's GLADSTONE'S 'SHE DEVIL' SIOBHAN OF COUNTRY BREEZE
Of good size, attractive head and lovely long neck. Would like more layback of upper arm to set her front better under her. Well bodied and in excellent harsh coat.

4th Levin & Pline's TOMAHAWKE'S HALO OVER GEMINI
Black girl in gleaming coat. Kind head and neat ears. Would like a touch more forechest and tidier feet. Has good length of bone throughout and a free mover.

OPEN (11, 2)

1st Simon's ROCKHART RAPHAELA REQUIEM
Really caught my eye for her sheer strength and presence. Has a super, happy temperament. No frills head, a tad broad but with a good strong jaw. Ears tightly held. Super strong crested neck into well constructed forehead and well filled front. Really powerfully built throughout. Firm topline and strong over croup into nicely angulated rear, good low hocks. Needs to tighten in underline. Excelled in free, easy movement and was lovely and true on the up and back. A hound that looks like a real huntress. **WINNERS BITCH & BOS**

2nd Smith's TALIESIN'S SPRIOLAG
Lovely wheaten girl, super head and tight ears. A real series of curves with well set front, deep chested and good length of body. Nicely rounded rear and sweeping hindquarters. Energetic and easy mover. **RESERVE WINNERS BITCH**

3rd Vaughn & Smith's TALIESIN'S DAMHSOIR
Liked this girl for type. Nicely balanced overall with good bone. Deep bodied, underline a little slack at present as I understand just off a litter. Excellent coat and impressed in movement showing power and enthusiasm.

4th Flanagan's NUTSTOWN AISLING OF CARRICKANEENA
Smaller girl, has a super head and ears. Not overdone in any way and each part flows nicely into the next. Put forward in good condition and well handled.

VETERAN DOGS (1, 1)

VETERAN BITCHES (3, 1)

1st Johnson, Johnson & Johnson's DCH GLADSTONE'S MAEVE, JOR.
At nearly 8 years is full of breed type. Lovely head with long muzzle and kind expression. Ears could be a little tighter. Long strong neck into well set front. Good length of ribbing into slightly generous loin. Super width across the stifle. Really impressed on the move, lovely in profile and true on the up and back.

2nd Flynn's GCH SHANCARRICK'S DERVLA CGC, TD.
Another nearly 8 year old. Well balanced overall, deep in brisket giving plenty of heart and lung room and good width across the pelvis. In super coat. In nice condition and moved out tidily.

BEST OF BREED (21, 3)

1st Marx, Benjamin & Brown's CH HOUND HILL VANDERBILT OF AERIE

Had everything I was looking for. Impressive hound of good size, substance and a serene presence. Masculine head with a super strong, long neck into well laid shoulder. Good infill of chest and deep in brisket. Well sprung rib with firm topline, strong loin and plenty of width across the pelvis. Long bones with plenty of length of second thigh and strong hocks. Beautifully balanced overall and put forward in grand coat and condition. Really powered round the ring on a free and flowing stride.

SELECT DOG

Smith's TALIESIN'S REALTBHUION

Well furnished head and nicely rosed ears. Very strongly made throughout, not overangulated anywhere and lots of width and bone. Superb coat and presented in terrific condition. Would like a little less fallaway over the croup but he strode out powerfully and was very correct.

SELECT BITCH

LeVan's GCH LISMORE STONEYBROOK ROXIE HART

Really nice girl who kept catching my eye. Appealed for type with an attractive head although would prefer smaller, tighter ears. Has super angulations and lovely flowing top and underlines. Covered the ground well on the move. Liked her very much.

AWARD OF MERIT

Gagne & Ivanovskis AM.CAN.BISS STARKEEPER RENA'S ROGUE

Lovely head, kind expression with a good length of neck into a well set front. Sweeping top and underlines and super long second thigh which she used to good effect on the move.

STUD DOG (1)

1st Marx & Benjamin's GCH RIVERLAWN EXIT OF AERIE

Was so pleased to have the chance to see this boy again. I didn't recognize him from the raw, rangy black youngster I judged 8 years ago. He has matured very handsomely and has certainly proved a valuable sire producing tpy, sound and good moving offspring.

BROOD BITCH (2, 1)

1st Johnson, Johnson & Johnson's DCH GLADSTONE'S MAEVE, JOR

This lovely veteran has passed on her super breed type to her offspring. A real pleasure to see the generations.

BRACE (3, 1)

1st Callender & Gagne's STARKEEPER CALOREN AMBER DECLAN AND STARKEEPER CALORIEN A DIAMOND

Very nice wheaten duo who were so alike in type and so in unison, almost foot perfect moving round together.

2nd LeVan's LISMORE LONE RANGER AND LISMORE LOVEY WENTWORTH HOWELL

Very close up and another nice pair who were very tpy and strode out well together. Just outdone by the slightly more in-sync movement of the winners.

Sue Cole (Judge)